

Appl. No.: 10/772,196
Amdt. dated June 5, 2009
Reply to Office Action of February 5, 2009

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of discriminating between orders, comprising:
evaluating a queue of orders to determine whether each one or more prescriptions ~~prescription~~ within ~~the~~each order is fillable in an automated manner or a non-automated manner; and
determining a set of workstations for each prescription based on said evaluating,
wherein if ~~in response to the determination revealing that at least one of the prescriptions~~ is fillable in an automated manner, the method further comprises selecting a first subset of said set of workstations that excludes a pharmacist review workstation for reviewing a respective filled order and,
wherein in response to the determination revealing that at least one of the prescriptions is fillable in a non-automated manner, the method further comprises selecting a second subset of otherwise said set of workstations that includes at the pharmacist review workstation.
2. (Canceled)
3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 additionally comprising selecting an appropriate sized end user container, printing and applying a label to said container, inserting the labeled container into a carrier, and routing the carrier among the determined set~~first or second subset~~ of workstations.
4. (Original) The method of claim 3 wherein said routing includes routing the carrier from a dispensing workstation, to an imaging workstation, and to a capping workstation.
5. (Original) The method of claim 4 additionally comprising tracking multiple prescriptions that belong to one order and grouping all the prescriptions that belong to one order for shipping.

6. (Original) The method of claim 4 additionally comprising routing the carrier to a packing workstation where a patient specific document is printed and inserted into a labeled bag along with the patient's prescription.

7-8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) A method of operating a prescription filling line ~~of the type having automated equipment and non-automated equipment for filling prescriptions,~~ comprising: evaluating a queue of orders to determine whether each one or more prescriptions ~~prescription~~ within each order is fillable in an automated manner or a non-automated manner;

selecting an appropriate sized end user container;
printing and applying a label to said container;
inserting the labeled container into a carrier;
routing the carrier to a prescription filling station;
routing the carrier to an imaging workstation; and
determining a set of equipment for each prescription based on said evaluating,
wherein in response to the determination revealing that at least one of the prescriptions is fillable in an automated manner, the method further comprises selecting a first subset of said equipment, the first subset comprises automated equipment that excludes a pharmacist review workstation for reviewing a respective filled order and,

wherein in response to the determination revealing that at least one of the prescriptions is fillable in a non-automated manner, the method further comprises selecting a second subset of said equipment, the second subset comprises non-automated equipment that includes the pharmacist review workstation,

wherein when~~where~~ ~~said order has been filled by the~~ automated equipment, routing each carrier for said order to a packing workstation without a review by a pharmacist, and

wherein when~~where~~ ~~said order has at least one prescription filled by the~~ non-automated equipment, routing each carrier for said order to a pharmacist workstation before routing each

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carrier to the packing workstation.

10. (Withdrawn) A system for filing a prescription, said system comprising:
a control computer in communication with a plurality of workstations comprising a first
prescription filling station comprising automated equipment and a second prescription filling
station comprising non-automated equipment, said control computer configured to:

evaluate a queue of orders to determine whether each prescription within
respective orders is fillable by said automated equipment; and

control routing of the prescription, based on said evaluating, either to one set of
workstations that includes the first prescription filling station comprising automated equipment
but is independent of a pharmacist review workstation or to a different set of workstations that
includes the second prescription filling station comprising non-automated equipment and that
further includes a pharmacist review workstation.

11. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 10 further comprising one or more carriers
corresponding with a respective one or more prescriptions, said carriers configured to transport a
respective one or more containers throughout the system.

12. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 11 wherein the plurality of workstations further
comprise an imaging workstation comprising an imaging means configured to take and store an
image of the contents of respective carriers.

13. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 12 wherein the imaging workstation further
comprises a near infrared imaging means.

14. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 11 wherein respective carriers comprise an
insert configured to enable the carrier to accommodate a container of varying diameter.

15. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 11 wherein respective carriers comprise an

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identifier configured to store information associated with the corresponding prescription.

16. (Withdrawn) The system of Claim 15 wherein the identifier comprises a radio frequency identification tag.

17. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 10 wherein the plurality of workstations further comprise some combination of a dispensing workstation, a capping workstation and a packing workstation.